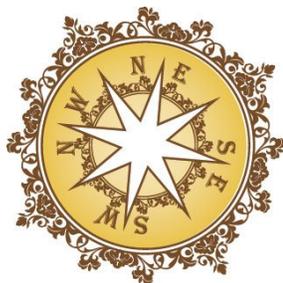


*Insider Secrets to Enjoying*

# INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

*Tips and Hints to Make the Most of Your Vacation*

Presented By:



Travel By Design   
*Dream. Design. Discover.*

# Passports

Plan to leave one copy with a trusted person, and take one copy along with you as well as the original.

Check the passport entry requirements of the country you're visiting- many require your passport to be valid 6 months after your return date of travel.

Some countries also require separate visas for US citizens, so don't be caught unaware-- know before you go!

Download the mobile passport app for re-entry into the US. Some airports (though not all) have special entry lines dedicated to mobile passport users. This is the preferred queue if available!

Consider Global Entry. This requires a background check, an in-person interview, and \$100 fee. It's good for 5 years and expedites re-entry into the US. Additionally it automatically gets you TSA precheck for domestic flights. If you plan to travel frequently, especially outside of the US, it's worth considering.

# Money & Currency

A credit card with zero foreign transaction fees is a great option.

Plan to notify your credit card company that you'll be travelling so they won't freeze your card when you use it while you're abroad.

Obtain some local currency. You can order it at your bank 10-14 days before departure. This is an excellent complement to carrying a credit card, since some businesses will not accept them. Small bills are best so that you're not flashing large bills, and because sometimes a local seller to tell you they can't make change (this is more likely to happen with locals hawking goods on beaches, in parks, etc. than in actual shops). This is a scam you can avoid by carrying small bills or coins!

# Smart Phones & Gadgets

Look at your mobile provider's information and see what's available for international data/calling. It's cheaper to get some version of an international plan than it is to accidentally use data/calling and be hit with major roaming fees. An alternative is to purchase a cheap burner phone at your destination.

Learn the phone number (by heart!) of someone at home you trust to help you in an emergency. If anything happens to your phone with all the stored phone numbers and you find yourself in dire circumstances, you'll want to be able to call someone to help.

Learn which converters and/or adapters you'll need for your trip. These are not the same thing. A converter converts 240V to 120V and/or vice versa. 240V will ruin most gadgets used by US residents. One exception to this is the iPhone and various Apple devices. The charging block provided with your device is an automatic converter. An adapter just allows your standard plug shape to fit into the wall plug of the place you're visiting.

If the destination you're visiting has public transportation and you intend to utilize it, download the app for the transport system. Most major cities have some version of their routes/stops/timetables on apps available for download. Additionally, download Rome2Rio for directions to get places utilizing various forms of transportation.

# Packing

Pack less than you think you'll need! A great example is shoes--plan to pack 2-3 pair, at the most!

If you plan an extended trip and want to keep the packing light, purchase quick dry or technical fabric. You can wash these in the sink with shampoo or other liquid soap, roll in a dry towel, then hang overnight for dry clothes in the morning. This doesn't work on cotton, wool, silk, etc., so please don't try it--technical fabrics only!

Pack clothes that make interchangeable outfits--similar color schemes and such. If you can't use a single piece in at least two outfits, then consider leaving it at home.

Check the local weather before departure so you'll have an idea of what to pack. We suggest Weather Underground, but use whatever works for you.

Jewelry--if you can't afford financially or emotionally to lose it then leave it at home. Pick up a Qalo or other sports band for a wedding ring substitute or get a cheap band somewhere.

# Flights & Carry-On Bags

Many airlines allow you to check in 24 hours prior to your flight. Set a reminder to check in on time!

Arrive at the airport least 2 hours prior to your departure if you plan to check bags.

Entertainment is available on most flights but sometimes it's mediocre at best. Before you leave home, download apps to keep you happy. Netflix and Amazon Prime have a download function for most shows/movies. For music, Pandora and Spotify also have download/ listen offline options. Side note regarding content: Netflix has different content in different areas of the world, so if you show up in Mexico or Trinidad or somewhere else you may get the chance to get hooked on all new shows. Also, Pandora is not offered in many countries, and you'll have to switch your device to airplane mode to listen to your downloaded content.

Snacks--Pack what you like as long as it's not liquid/jelly. Airport snacks are expensive. Keep your snacks easy to reach and packed together. Some US airports

now request that you remove any food items from your carry on for inspection if you're in the general TSA lines (another reason to get precheck).

Water bottle--Bring a reusable water bottle or insulated coffee cup with a secure lid. Many airports offer water bottle filling stations by some (not all) of their water fountains.

Hand sanitizer--Clip it to the outside of your carry-on for easy access (and to expedite screening your bag). Use it. Love it. Get one or two for everyone.

Diaper or feminine wipes. Super useful for cleaning hands, faces, and bottoms while out and about or when you visit a bathroom with no toilet paper.

Medication--If you have space in your carry-on, pack all the prescriptions you require. If you require too much medication to get it all in your bag with the rest of the stuff you want handy, then pack enough to get you through your travel from destination to destination along with a few days' extra for just in case.

Portable charger--Long flights will drain your batteries. Additionally, you're likely to use your phone/camera a lot while at your destination, so it's a good idea to carry it with you while exploring.

Printed documents--Any arrangements you've made for airport transfers and hotel/VRBO check-in need to be handy. Do not rely on your phone. In fact, it's a good idea to have printed copies of any and all pre-purchased tours/tickets/reservations etc. somewhere for the same reason.

Remember the TSA's 3 oz rule- no containers with liquid greater than 3oz and all containers should be packed together in a single quart size Ziploc bag for easy removal from your bag and subsequent screening.

Wear comfy shoes. Remember that you'll have to remove them if you're in the general TSA screening line. Please plan accordingly and don't wear something that takes ages to remove. It makes for a stressful situation during screening for you and those around you!

If you're not overly concerned with fashion, consider a backpack with a bottle holder on the side as your carry-on. It allows you to carry your gear while keeping your hands free. Also, it's nearly guaranteed to fit under the seat in front of you.